

**STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD  
BOARD MEETING SESSION - DIVISION OF WATER RIGHTS  
JULY 16, 2008**

**ITEM 15**

**SUBJECT**

CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION ADOPTING A STRATEGIC WORKPLAN FOR ACTIVITIES TO PROTECT BENEFICIAL USES IN THE SAN FRANCISCO BAY/SACRAMENTO-SAN JOAQUIN DELTA ESTUARY

**DISCUSSION**

The State Water Board, Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board, and the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board (collectively, Water Boards) share responsibility to protect beneficial uses of water in the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Estuary (Bay-Delta). The Water Boards recently adopted resolutions directing staff to prepare a strategic workplan to ensure the comprehensive, consistent, and coordinated protection of beneficial uses in the Bay-Delta, and the equitable administration of water rights.<sup>1</sup> The draft strategic workplan must prioritize and describe the scope of individual activities and provide specificity regarding timelines and resource needs for implementing coordinated activities in the Bay-Delta.

The draft strategic workplan describes a suite of priority activities the Water Boards will pursue over the next five years to address the water supply and environmental crisis in the Bay-Delta.<sup>2</sup> The draft strategic workplan includes a wide range of flow-related, water quality, and water use efficiency actions that will help better protect the beneficial uses of the Bay-Delta, including the public trust, while recognizing the diverse public interests in the Bay-Delta. The activities in the draft strategic workplan are comprised of complementary proposed and ongoing activities, which will be coordinated to address the Bay-Delta crisis. Workplan activities are responsive to priorities identified by the Governor and Delta Vision for the Bay-Delta.

The draft workplan includes the following elements:

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<sup>1</sup> On December 4, 2007, the State Water Board adopted [Resolution 2007-0079](#). The Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board adopted [Resolution R5 2007-0161](#) on December 6, 2007, and the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board adopted [Resolution R2 2008-0009](#) on January 30, 2008.

<sup>2</sup> This workplan focuses on the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta (Delta), but also involves Bay-Delta wide issues.

- 1) Water quality and contaminant control;
- 2) Comprehensive monitoring program;
- 3) Southern Delta salinity and San Joaquin River flow objectives;
- 4) Suisun Marsh management, preservation, and restoration;
- 5) Comprehensive review of the Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan, water rights, and other requirements to protect fish and wildlife beneficial uses and the public trust;
- 6) Activities to ensure that the State Water Project's (SWP) and Central Valley Project's (CVP) methods of diversion in the Delta are reasonable, beneficial, and protect the public trust;
- 7) Water right compliance, enforcement, and other activities to ensure adequate flows to meet water quality objectives;
- 8) Water use efficiency; and
- 9) Other activities

### **POLICY ISSUE**

Should the State Water Board approve the resolution?

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

To a large extent, the activities described in the strategic workplan consist of existing commitments by the Water Boards to pursue statutory and regulatory requirements for which existing resources are identified and dedicated. Redirection of resources and acquisition of new resources will be needed to complete some of the new activities such as the comprehensive monitoring program and water use efficiency activities. These and other new activities have been phased to minimize the fiscal impact.

### **REGIONAL WATER BOARD IMPACT**

The Central Valley Regional Water Board and San Francisco Bay Regional Water Board will be affected by passage of the resolution. Although most resources are already available to implement the work described, some redirection of resources and acquisition of new resources will be needed to complete all of the Regional Water Board activities identified in the workplan.

### **STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

The State Water Board should approve the proposed resolution.

# DRAFT

## STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD RESOLUTION NO. 2008-

### STRATEGIC WORKPLAN FOR ACTIONS TO PROTECT BENEFICIAL USES OF THE SAN-FRANCISCO BAY/SACRAMENTO-SAN JOAQUIN DELTA ESTUARY

#### WHEREAS:

1. Resolutions were adopted by the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board – [Resolution 2007-0079](#)), Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Regional Water Board – [Resolution R5 2007-0161](#)), and the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board (San Francisco Bay Regional Water Board – [Resolution R2 2008-0009](#)) (collectively Water Boards) on December 4, 2007, December 6, 2007, and January 30, 2008, respectively, committing to take various actions to protect beneficial uses in the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Estuary (Bay-Delta).
2. The above-mentioned resolutions directed staff to prepare a strategic workplan that prioritizes and describes the scope of individual activities and provides specificity regarding timelines and resource needs for implementing coordinated activities in the Bay-Delta.
3. Water Boards' staff have prepared the June 2008 [Draft Strategic Workplan for Activities in the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Estuary](#) that describes a suite of priority activities the Water Boards will pursue over the next five years to address the water supply and environmental crisis in the Bay-Delta. Workplan activities are responsive to priorities identified by the Governor and Delta Vision, and touch on a wide range of flow-related and water quality actions to better protect the Bay-Delta and the public trust, while still protecting diverse public interests.
4. In the future, emerging information or modified recommendations from the Governor, Delta Vision, or other sources may warrant reevaluating activities identified in the strategic workplan.
5. The Central Valley Regional Water Board and San Francisco Bay Regional Water Board will consider adopting the draft strategic workplan later this year.

#### THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The State Water Board adopts the June 2008 *Draft Strategic Workplan for Activities in the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Estuary*.
2. Water Boards staff will provide quarterly updates to the Water Boards on implementation of the strategic workplan and, as appropriate, recommend modifying activities in the workplan to ensure that Water Boards' actions continue to protect beneficial uses in the Bay-Delta.

# **D R A F T**

3. The Water Boards will consider modifying the Bay-Delta strategic workplan as necessary to protect beneficial uses in the Bay-Delta.

## **CERTIFICATION**

The undersigned Clerk to the Board does hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of a resolution duly and regularly adopted at a meeting of the State Water Resources Control Board held on July 16, 2008.

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Jeanine Townsend  
Clerk to the Board